

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 7889

E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: NEARLY HALF OF 1974 CANDIDATES FOR DEPUTY
NEWCOMERS TO POLITICS

1. SUMMARY. CONTRARY TO PATTERN OF EARLIER
PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS NEARLY ONE-HALF OF PROSPECTIVE
DEPUTIES FOR NOVEMBER 17 ELECTIONS DID NOT RUN IN LAST
ELECTORAL CONTEST OF 1964. NEW CANDIDATES DRAWN FROM
PRESTIGE PROFESSIONS, MEDICINE, LAW, ACADEMIA, ALONG
WITH SIZEABLE NUMBER FROM BUSINESS, FARMING, SKILLED
WORK FORCE AND RETIRED MILITARY. THERE ARE THIRTY-FOUR WOMEN
RUNNING AND PERCENTAGE OF CANDIDATES UNDER 50 YEARS OF
AGE IS HIGHER THAN PAST RECENT ELECTIONS. SIX GREEK
MUSLIMS FROM THRACE HAVE FILED APPLICATIONS AS IN
PAST. EMD SUMMARY.

2. NOVEMBER 17 ELECTIONS WILL DECIDE DISTRIBUTION
OF 300 PARLIAMENTARY DEPUTIES, 288 ELECTED BY
DISTRICTS AND 12 SELECTED FOR FIRST TIME AS "NATIONAL
DEPUTIES." (ATHENS-7564 PROVIDES BACKGROUND ON
VOTING PROCEDURE FOR NATIONAL DEPUTIES.) SINCE
LAST PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS, FEBRUARY, 1964, FOR
300 PARLIAMENT SEATS, 49 FORMER DEPUTIES HAVE DIED;
87 CHOSE NOT TO RUN, LEAVING 164 WHO OPTED TO ENTER
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1974 CONTEST. GIVEN UNIVERSAL PREDILECTION OF

POLITICIANS TO STAY ACTIVE AND THEIR LEGENDARY AMBITIONS, 87 WHO DECIDED NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN UPCOMING ELECTIONS PROBABLY MADE THEIR DECISION ON BASIS OF FAIRLY COMPELLING REASONS SUCH AS REJECTION BY THEIR FORMER PARTIES FOR COLLABORATION WITH A JUNTA OR APOSTASY IN 1965, FAMILY REASONS, INADEQUATE FINANCES OR BAD HEALTH. OF TOTAL OF 164 EX-DEPUTIES RUNNING IN NEXT MONTH'S ELECTIONS, FOLLOWING NUMBERS WERE ELECTED IN 1964: 61 WITH NEW DEMOCRACY, 65 WITH CENTER UNION/NEW FORCES, 16 WITH PASOK, 11 UNITED LEFT, 8 NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC UNION AND 3 AS INDEPENDENTS. THEREE ELECTORAL DISTRICTS OUT OF 56 TOTAL PRESENT SAME EX-DEPUTIES FROM 1964 ELECTIONS ON SAME PARTY SLATE FOR NOVEMBER BALLOTING.

3. ONLY NEW DEMOCRACY PROVIDED VOTERS WITH BREAKDOWN OF CANDIDATES' PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUNDS. ND ANNOUNCED SIX ARE UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS, 17 CIVIL ENGINEERS AND CHEMISTS, 29 PHYSICIANS, 11 RETIRED MILITARY OFFICERS, 14 ECONOMISTS, PLUS LAWYERS, JOURNALISTS, EDUCATORS, FARMERS AND OTHERS. ND ALSO STATED THAT SIGNIFICANT PERCENTAGE OF CANDIDATES ARE UNDER 50 YEARS OLD. OTHER PARTIES SEEM TO HAVE TAKEN CLUE FROM ND'S SLATES WHICH PRECEDED PUBLICATION OF OTHER PARTY LISTS WITH STRESS ON NEW FACES, RELATIVE YOUTH, AND WOMEN. PASOK UNDERScoreD INCLUSION OF WORKERS AND FARMERS ON ITS SLATE, WHILE CENTER UNION/ NEW FORCES ATTEMPTS THROUGH PARTICIPATION OF PROFESSORS PESMAZOGLOU, TSATSOS, PEONIS, MANGAKIS, PROTOPAPPAS, COLLOQUIALLY KNOWN AS THE ZGERMAN CIRCLE" FROM THEIR EXPERIENCE WITH GERMAN UNIVERSITIES, TO POINT UP DYNAMISM OF YOUTHFUL ACADEMICIANS REPRESENTING PROGRESSIVE, SOCIALIST TRENDS OF EUROPE. PETROS GAROUFALIAS' RIGHTIST NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC UNION, EDE, WHICH CARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT CHOOSES NOT TO REGARD AS MAJOR POLITICAL GROUPING AND THUS IS EXCLUDED FROM PERIODIC MEETINGS CONDUCTED BY MINISTER TO PM ANGELOS VLACHOS ON ELECTORAL PROCEDURAL MATTERS AND FROM REGULARLY SCHEDULED TELEVISION TIME GRANTED TO FOUR LEADING PARTIES, IS FREQUENTLY LABELLED IN OPPOSITION PRESS AND CRITICS OF RIGHT AS JUNTA

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PARTY DESPITE FACT THAT ONLY HANDFUL OF LOWER RANKING OFFICIALS DURING MILITARY REGIME PRIOD ARE INCLUDED IN ITS SLATE. CAREER BACKGROUNDS OF EDE CANDIDATES ARE SIMILAR TO THOSE OF OTHER PARTIES. UNITED LEFT ALSO EMBARCES NUMBER OF BOURGEOIS BUSINESSMEN, PROSPEROUS LAWYERS, ETC. OF 34 WOMEN ON BALLOT THIS YEAR NONE SAT IN 1964 PARLIAMENT AND OVER HALF ARE FROM ATHENS/PIRAEUS AREA WITH HIGH PROPORTION RUNNING ON

PASOK/UNITED LEFT SLATES. 19 UNITED LEFT,
4 PASOK, 7 CU/NF, AND 4 ND.

4. HIGH PERCENTAGE OF NEW CANDIDATES INCREASES
UNPREDICTABILITY IN ELECTION FORECASTING. THIS IS
REINFORCED BY GREEK TRADITION OF VOTERS EXPRESSING
PREFERENCE FOR INDIVIDUALS AND NOT PARTIES WHERE IDEOLOGY
AND STRICT LOYALTY PLAY LOOSER ROLES. CAREER, AGE, SEX
SIMILARITIES OF ALL SLATES COMPETING TO INCLUDE
CROSS SECTION OF PROMINENT PROFESSIONAL, TRADE AND LABOR
CANDIDATES FURTHER STRENGTHENS VOTER TENDENCY TO MAKE
SELECTION ON BASIS OF PERSONAL PREFERENCE FOR MAN HE KNOWS
OR MAN WHO CAN DO MOST FOR HIM. PARTICIPATION OF
HIGH NUMBER OF CANDIDATES IN ELECTIONS FOR FIRST
TIME GIVES CREDENCE TO "NEWNESS" CLAIM BY PARITES
("NEW DEMOCRACY", "NEW POLITICAL FORCES", "NEW SOCIALIST
FRONT") AS POLITICAL PROCESS IS RELAUNCHED AFTER NEARLY 10
YEARS HIATUS. HOWEVER, IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER
PROFILE OF NEW GREEK PARLIAMENT TO BE SWORN IN DECEMBER 2,
1974 WILL REPRESENT REAL DEPARTURE IN COUNTRY'S PUBLIC
AFFAIRS.

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